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AUG 28 1985

CERTIFIED MAIL #P 570 406 513  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Richard Culp  
Union Chemical Division  
Union Oil Company of California  
350 Roosevelt Avenue  
Carteret, NJ 07008

Dear Mr. Culp:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is authorized under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 to ensure for the timely and adequate clean up of hazardous substances that have been released into the environment.

On July 2, 1985, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) informed this office that the Chemical Division of the Union Oil Company of California which is located at 350 Roosevelt Avenue in Carteret, NJ had notified them of a release containing an unknown material. The release was observed to be originating from an underground source and seeping into Noes Creek, a tributary of the Arthur Kill.

On July 3, 1985, a meeting between Union Chemical Officials, and their representatives (IT Corporation), USCG, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Middlesex County Health Department, and USEPA took place. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss on-site corrective actions that would take place. At this time we were advised that the IT Corporation had been contracted for the clean up and would begin immediately. We were also advised that the material of concern was Xylene along with several other trace organics.

Based on the information available to USEPA, which has been obtained during bi-weekly visits to your facility, it is this Agency's opinion that the Union Oil Company of California has exhibited a lack of responsiveness in their efforts to remedy this situation.

FILE: Union Oil Company of California, Carteret, NJ  
2ERR-RP:ROTOLA:340-6789:8/22/85:mab:disk M #7 Revised:ss:8/28/85

## CONCURRENCES

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DATE	8/28/85	8/28/85	8/28/85					

In an effort to insure for both a timely and adequate clean up, the USEPA is requiring that a detailed work schedule be developed for immediate implementation. This work plan must itemize all activities that will take place including efforts that will be made to monitor and treat contaminated groundwater.

In addition to the required work schedule, a summary of the activities should be submitted that address the results of investigatory work that has been completed on identifying the source of the subject release. This summary should include procedures used in pressure testing all tanks and transfer lines in question along with the estimated quantity of product lost.

Both the work schedule and summary should be submitted to EPA by September 13, 1985 and in no way should the preparation of this information interfere with work that has already been initiated or scheduled to commerce between now and September 13, 1985.

If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please feel free to contact me at (201) 321-6789.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Rotola  
Response and Prevention Branch

cc: J. Berkowitz, NJDEP  
A. Henn, COTPNY  
R. Hill, MCDHS  
W. Mugdan, 2ORC-WTS  
B. Ogg, 2ERR-SIC